



CLEAN WATER ACTION

CONNECTICUT

Testimony of Roger Smith, Campaign Director, Clean Water Action Energy and Technology Committee March 9, 2010

Testimony in opposition to House Bill 5466: AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE

Clean Water Action is a national environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting human health with 25,000 Connecticut members. We have worked on global warming-related issues in Connecticut since 2002 and coordinate the 90 group-strong "Connecticut Climate Coalition."

We testify in opposition to *An Act Concerning Climate Change*. It would understaffed state agencies to perform make-work calculations for no clear benefit. Secondly, we also do not believe the state Department of Public Utility Control has cognizance over issues related to climate change, and has no ability to do economic analysis. Thirdly, efforts to reduce global warming emissions are generally part of larger programs, such as public transit, recycling and energy efficiency, and it makes no sense to require additional analyses of any programs no matter how tangentially related to global warming. **HB 5466 could bring the state's clean energy, energy efficiency, transit and recycling programs to a standstill.** Connecticut does not need more red tape.

In 2001, Connecticut Governor Rowland committed the state to do its part to reduce regional global warming emissions along with the other New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers. In 2004, the original *An Act Concerning Climate Change* (later Public Act 04-252) required the state to create a climate plan by 2005. Today Connecticut has a climate action plan with 55 items in categories ranging from transportation and land-use to recycling and solid waste, residential commercial and industrial emissions, agriculture, and electricity generation. www.ctclimatechange.com

Public Act 08-98 turned these state goals into a mandatory law and requires state agencies to regularly report back to the legislature on progress. As part of the ongoing climate planning process, analysis is being done on all recommendations to attempt to quantify greenhouse gas reductions and also economic implications (within limited available resources).

HB 5466 does not recognize that global warming is not the domain of DEP or DPUC alone as the issues related to it go far beyond energy. In fact, OPM, DPW, CCEF, DAS and DOT are also members of the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change (which was created by the governor and is chaired by DEP.)

We ask the committee to respect the process in place to implement our state's climate law and not to overburden state agencies with unnecessary requests for information.